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Sunny Grove, Sheffield Decr 30th 1846

To Maria W. Chapman

Dear friend

It was very pleasant to receive thy little note of Nov. 29th, not merely as an acknowledgment of the receipt of the articles sent to your Bazaar but as opening a communication with friends on the other side the wide Atlantic to whom present circumstances tend closely to unite us— Having lately enjoyed much of the society of your & our dear friends H. C. Wright & Fredk Douglass, I judge a few lines from me may not be unacceptable giving a report of their welfare & doings— — The letters of the former sent by the last Steamer were written from here & since that time we have greatly enjoyed his fireside society – the best situation for free unrestrained intercourse— His first coming was to pay a friendly visit – finding ours a quiet "home" he remained longer than at first intended that he might make up some arrears of writing – at the same time in several large evening parties teaching his Peaceful & Kindness-loving principles – Besides these he had two

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Peace meetings in Sheffield - one in the Town Hall
& the other in Friend's Meeting House - I need
not tell you, who know H. C. W. that it was
exceedingly pleasant to us to have him here
& to be assured that he could feel our house
a home - wh. I believe he does - During his
stay with us he was invited to Doncaster
18 miles distant by Friends there & held
a number of Peace meetings & one Anti Slavery
meeting in that town & several other towns
& villages within a circuit of a few miles - Our
dear friend became deeply interested in the
Friends into whose families he was thrown
& in the places that he visited & hopes before long
to see most of them again - One of the meetings
at Doncaster was a children's meeting attended
by 700 or 800 - and he is expecting soon to hold
similar meetings here & at Leeds - Tho' Henry
has been so long in England he had not before
visited this part of Yorkshire. A week ago today
he & I went to Leeds as I wished to introduce him
to my brother & sister living at Kirkstall, near
that town & to some other Friends there. We
passed a few days together very pleasantly &
I hope our visit may have been the means of
opening a wide field of usefulness for our
dear friend - During this visit we had also
the company of F. Douglass & attended an Anti
Slavery meeting held by him in the Music Hall
on the 23rd. I feel almost afraid to trust
my self to speak of this dear friend, so highly
do I estimate his moral & intellectual
character

I believe when he returns to you, it will be found he has made great improvement during his residence in Europe. To me his improvement is very perceptible. He feels a laudable desire not merely to raise the character of Frederick Douglass, but of three millions of his brother slaves in N. America. And truly he who but a few years ago was a chattel, a marketable commodity, is now a highly endowed intellectual Being — a gentleman (in the true sense of the word) fitted to shine in the highest circles — I fear some of his friends in America shd be alarmed for him. I hope they need not — he appears to me to be in an humble state of mind & I think does not forget "the rock whence he was hewed, nor the hole of the pit whence he was digged". I own his situation is one of much danger, but he is sensible of it & in this is great safety — I speak so much of Frederick being sure you who have so long & ardently laboured to obtain the Emancipation of his race, must feel deep interest in his welfare — As I said he had a meeting at Leeds on the 23rd — his speech was a most splendid one — he had not his usual strength having but just recovered from a fit of sickness & before the end he sat down, requesting his "friend Henry C. Wright of Philadelphia, who was on the platform to address the meeting" & promising to speak again before the close ~~of the meeting~~ — he did so & I think even more beautifully than before — One part of his speech I wish I could send you — It was a Eulogy on our dear Garrison (for we claim

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a slave in him) - it was fine beyond description & delivered in a tone & manner which gave to the language full effect - To the question again & again repeated "and who is Wm Lloyd Garrison?" he gave an answer description of the various labours of this noble advocate of the rights of the slave & concluded by a touching appeal to the meeting - a rather an emphatic declaration that it was too much to ask of a poor slave that he shd renounce such a friend - During F. D's stay at Leeds he had a letter of H. C. W's addressed to him on the subject of the purchase of his freedom, & his own reply printed for the purpose of circulation as there exists in this country great difference of opinion relative to the transaction - On Saturday 26th H. C. W. & F. D. left Leeds for Newcastle intending on the way to spend a few hours with E. Pease at Darlington this was Frederic's first introduction to her - To Newcastle I cannot follow them & from themselves you will hear of their doings there Of the health of these dear friends I may make a good report - Henry has borne the cold weather extremely well & has scarcely had a cough - And, except that Frederic has not quite regained his usual strength, he is well too - His illness occurred at the house of a Friend in Manchester, from whose family he recd the greatest possible attention - All who know F. D feel much interest about his family, the separation from whom he feels very keenly - thy ~~they~~ wife may rest assured he is amongst us as a son or brother beloved & cherished - I make no apology for writing to thee with so much freedom - but joined by my sister in love, subscribe myself thy friend Mary